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RED METAL
SITUATION IS
EXPLAINED BY
MR. DOUGLAS

Mr. Walter Douglas, in a recent interview with an Arizona newspaper man, gives his views on the copper situation in Arizona. Mr. Douglas arrived in Douglas, Arizona from New York last Sunday evening and will make a tour of the Southwest, visiting all the districts where his company has interests before returning to the metropolis.

Discussing the stopping of copper production in this country, Mr. Douglas said it had been agreed this was the only manner in which a condition which has been going from bad to worse for many months could be met. He said the price of copper recently has afforded no opportunity for profit in its production to the mine owners of the country. Consumers, he said, had only been buying what they used from day to day or week to week because of the continually declining price. It is now hoped that the manufacturers needing copper will start a campaign of buying which will soon consume the present large copper surplus in this country.

Great Surplus on Hand

Speaking of the copper surplus, Mr. Douglas said it amounted in the United States to 1,250,000,000 pounds. Just how long this supply would meet the demands for the red metal could not be even guessed at. He said that the sales of copper in the country last year amounted to 1,700,000,000 pounds. At this rate of buying the surplus would only suffice for about eight months, but he pointed to the fact that since the first of the present year copper sales in this country had amounted to more than 80,000,000 pounds monthly.

He further said that the producers would not remain idle until the entire surplus was dissipated.

Will Assist Employees

Mr. Douglas expressed his regret at the disturbance in the mining districts where work in the mines and reduction works has been ordered discontinued and confirmed the report that the Phelps Dodge corporation would do all in its power to assist those who have families and homes here and at other points. He advised that everyone adopt a retrenchment program during the present period of non-activity and he predicted that with careful co-operation there would be little real distress, though he said people must not expect to keep the gain they have been going during the recent years of abnormal prosperity.

Lack of Realization

Mr. Douglas expressed his surprise at what he regarded as a total lack of realization of present industrial conditions by many state legislatures in session during the winter, including those of New York and Arizona, where there seemed to be no disposition to conserve the welfare of the property owners by practicing a policy of retrenchment as a means of lowering the taxes which is one of the big items of expense in recent years, caused by a result of part participation in the world's war by the United States. The condition of the mining industry, the stock industry and the farming industry in Arizona, he said, was not such as to warrant the heavy appropriations authorized by the legislature which recently concluded its biennial session at Phoenix.

Will Continue Development

The Phelps Dodge corporation, according to its president, has not lost confidence in the future of the copper industry; it will continue important underground development at Bisbee and the work on the Sacramento Hill and at the new mill. Mr. Douglas did not think that more than twenty-five percent of the present force of the Copper Queen branch would be affected by the abandonment of production of copper.

EL PASO SMELTER TO
CLOSE DOWN BELIEF

EL PASO, April 6.—Due to lack of activity in the production of copper, the copper smelting department of the El Paso smelting works will likely close down temporarily about April 15, according to Kuno Doerr, manager.

The action of closing down this department will come about simultaneously with the closing of Copper Queen, Jackson, and Ray and Chino plants.

Mr. Doerr said that plans have not yet been completed concerning the policy of the plant after the shutdown of the copper department.

PASSPORTS ARE NO
LONGER NEEDED
ON BORDER

War time regulations requiring the procuring of a passport by any citizen of the United States before crossing the Mexican border in either direction, were automatically lifted at Douglas and other points along the international boundary Monday by the American government.

Information to this effect was contained in a telegram received by Frank W. Heath, immigration inspector at Douglas.

Action by the government in the matter repeals the war-time act of May 22, 1918, which became effective soon afterward, requiring that passports be obtained before entering in to or crossing from Mexico.

The regulation was passed by congress March 2 and signed by Pres. Wilson the last day he was in office. However, it had not officially become effective until yesterday, being held up pending investigation as to what effect the interpretation of the bill would have on the matter of forcing the vising by American consuls in Europe, of passports to the United States, which was desired in order to keep check on immigration.

Regulations contained in the immigration laws, antedating the war-time order, are not repealed by the new bill. Passports, if required by Mexico, will still be necessary, if an American citizen desires to go beyond Mexican 40-mile zone.

Ives G. Lelavie, Mexican consul here, last night reaffirmed his statement made recently that he was sure the Mexican government would meet the United States half way in the matter of removing passport restrictions. However, until this expected action is taken by Mexico, Americans entering Mexico and returning may, under the existing laws of that government, be required to show valid passports.

Mexican citizens or citizens of any other country are not affected by the new regulations, with the exception of those entering Mexico. In the latter case, no passports will be required. However, those crossing the Mexican border into the United States will be required to show passports as at present.

Text of Washington Message
"No passports or permits will be required by this government for any citizen crossing the Mexican border in either direction. Those entering Mexico should inquire of Mexican consuls what documents, if any, are required. In cases of urgent necessity, where passports are required, clerks of courts may issue certified copies of applications for passports as heretofore. United States citizens' identity cards should no longer be issued. Aliens crossing the border into Mexico are no longer required to present passports or permits, but aliens crossing the border from Mexico must comply with passport regulations and visa control regulations, which are still in effect."

MOCTEZUMA MINE
CLOSES APRIL 15

The following notice, signed by H. T. Hamilton, manager of the Moctezuma Copper company, was posted at Naco, Sonora, March 30, explaining the circumstances which caused the suspension of operations, and the arrangements made to assist workmen who will be forced to leave town to seek work elsewhere:

"On account of business depression the world over, there is no demand for copper and it is necessary to stop production until the tremendous surplus has been sold. It is hoped that by stopping production, the return of the copper market to a normal condition under which the company can again afford to produce copper, will be hastened.

"Effective about April 15, mining and milling of ore will cease, though a certain amount of development work will be done and construction work at the mill and power plant will be continued. A wage reduction for all men retained on the payroll after production ceases will be necessary. The company will help the men laid off who wish to leave camp by issuing ration allowances.

"THE MOCTEZUMA COPPER CO.
H. T. HAMILTON, Manager.

ALL OUTSTANDING WARRANTS OF
STATE MAY BE CASHED BY
HOLDERS WITHIN WEEK

PHOENIX, April 6.—All state road tax warrants registered between January 6 and 25, and general fund warrants registered between March 7 and 10, can be cashed at the state treasurer's office now, according to an announcement today by State Treasurer George Earhart.

Federal aid money amounting to \$19,000, received by the state, would be used in paying the road tax warrants, he said.

BANDITS BEAT AND ROB
POSTMASTER AT BISBEE;
OVER \$40,000 IS STOLEN

Two masked Mexicans Sunday night forced their way into the office of Postmaster L. R. Bailey at Bisbee and, at the point of guns, compelled him to open the vault, which contained a sum near \$50,000. After making their haul the robbers attacked Mr. Bailey, bound and gagged him and made away with the money, over \$40,000 of which is said to have been in currency.

According to Mr. Bailey's story he was working in his office about 10 o'clock Sunday night when he heard a rap at his door. Arising and going to the door to see who it was, he was faced by two masked men, supposedly Mexicans, who ordered him to unlock the vault.

After obtaining the money the bandits made an attack upon him, according to reports, beating him over the head, and, as he fell unconscious, bound and gagged him.

The wounded postmaster was found at 7 o'clock Monday morning by employee. No trace up to early Monday afternoon had been found of the bandits.

Postmaster Bailey said that he had no regular hours for working at the postoffice at night but found it necessary to go there two or three times a week at night to attend to his duties. He was making one of these visits to the postoffice when the bandits arrived, he said.

Forty thousand dollars of paper money was bound up in packages, was intended for the payroll in the Bisbee mines, according to reports received here.

This is the third robbery within some years at the Bisbee postoffice. It is said, R. A. Clappitt formerly an assistant postmaster there, was convicted and given a prison term upon the alleged discovery of a \$6000 shortage and W. W. Henderson, also an assistant postmaster, was convicted for an alleged \$1700 shortage.

Bailey is confined to his bed under the doctor's orders, suffering from the shock of having remained tightly bound and gagged all night, and from the rough treatment he received at the hands of the robbers. He is not seriously injured.

Bailey said Monday evening that he made a trip to the Huachuca mountains Sunday with his family, and that, upon his return in the evening he went to the postoffice to get some reports concerning the past month's business. He said that shortly after 10 o'clock, he was not sure of the time, someone knocked on the door of his private office. He opened the door and was confronted by two masked men who covered him closely with guns, and forced him into his office, he said. They followed him and shut the door.

Hit Him With Gun

The two men then forced the postmaster to open the safe which is in his private office. Bailey said that whenever he hesitated or showed any inclination to disobey one of the men would strike him with the butt of his gun until he feared for his life.

Bailey said that after he had opened the safe and the men had procured the package containing \$40,000 in currency that they ordered him to open an iron drawer in the safe contain-

ing postal savings. He opened the drawer, handed some loose money, and said, "That's all." The men took his word for it and missed several thousand dollars that was there.

The robbers next turned their attention to the vault that is in the rear part of the building. They ordered Bailey to open it, and he told them he did not know the combination, as the combination had been changed a few days before by David Pressly, assistant postmaster. The bandits told Bailey that they would kill him if he did not open the vault, and Bailey said that he told them they would have to kill him, as he could not do it.

Plotted to Lock Him In

When the two men told Bailey to open the vault they informed him that they were going to leave him locked up inside. Bailey said that his life was saved by the fact that he could not open it, as to remain locked up in the vault would mean sure death by suffocation. If the robbers had succeeded in getting into the vault they would have increased their haul by a considerable sum.

Bailey said that the two men spent about an hour in the post office after first entering. When they left they bound his hands tightly behind him with ropes, tied his feet in the same manner, gagged him with a handkerchief lying under his tongue, and left him lying in a small room used for janitor's supplies. He remained there until 7 o'clock Monday morning, when he was found by Simon Escobedo, the postoffice janitor, who freed him.

Watchmen See Light

J. C. Krigbaum and A. N. Ewing, night watchmen, were conversing Sunday night at about 10 o'clock near the Copper Queen store when they noticed a light in Bailey's office. They also saw the window blind drawn aside and someone looking out. They remarked on the presence of someone in the office at that unusual hour, and Krigbaum went over to investigate. He rapped on the window and called out, asking who was there. Krigbaum said that Bailey replied in a normal voice that it was he and that he was remaining late to do some work. The night watchman was satisfied when he heard Bailey reply and investigated no further. Bailey said that when Krigbaum called to him the two bandits pointed their guns at him and ordered him to reply or they would blow his brains out.

Simon Escobedo told of coming to the postoffice in the morning and finding Bailey gagged and bound. Bailey said Monday that he is sure the two men were Mexicans, although both spoke good English. He said that one was a tall man, and wore a mustache and was dressed in a broad brimmed, light hat. The other, he said, was short and dark, and wore a black felt hat. Both had masks that concealed their faces to their chins. The men seemed satisfied with their haul of currency, and neglected war savings stamps, postage stamps, money order blanks, and other valuables, said Bailey.

Postoffice inspectors were notified of the robbery and are coming to investigate. Sheriff Joe Hood and his deputies and the Bisbee police force are working on the case. The fact that the robbers picked a time when there was an unusual amount of money available in the postoffice is believed to indicate that they had some inside information concerning the shipment of currency.

Special Train to Leave Clifton
Next Tuesday Conveying Mine
Employees Free to El Paso

The special train leaving Clifton next Tuesday will probably carry the largest crowd of passengers that has ever gone over the road before at one time. It is estimated that at least one thousand people will take advantage of the free offer by the mining company to convey them as far as El Paso.

It was learned today at the headquarters of the railroad that the mixed train will carry about fourteen

or fifteen cars. Of this number eleven or twelve will be coaches for passengers and the balance will be box cars to take care of the baggage.

Passengers leaving Morenci will take the Morenci Southern to Guthrie and will there be attached to the special train leaving Clifton.

The Mexican Consul at El Paso will take charge of the crowd when they arrive there and has completed arrangements for their transfer into Mexico without delay.

GENERAL RAIN OVER STATE,
REPORTS AT CAPITAL SHOW

PHOENIX, April 6.—Ed Stephens, secretary of the state livestock board, says that reports from the board's inspectors indicated that the rain of last Sunday was general over the state. The reports also said that the rain was of sufficient amount to improve the ranges greatly, he declared.

DAN LYNCH MEETS
WITH ACCIDENT

While Daniel Lynch was engaged in his duties in his office one day last week, he was attacked and bitten by a scorpion. The bite was not of a serious nature and from the latest reports Mr. Lynch is doing nicely, however we understand that the scorpion has passed away.

C. & A. CHIEFS TO
HOLD MEET IN
BISBEE ON 11TH

The Calumet and Arizona Mining company has formulated no plans for any change in operations at the present time, according to Col. John C. Greenway, general manager of the corporation at Bisbee. In making this statement in reply to an inquiry, Colonel Greenway was not speaking for the future, but indicated that for the immediate present no change is contemplated. This means that for the present the C. & A. company will continue to produce copper, and the smelter at Douglas will not be closed. The board of directors of the C. & A. will meet in Bisbee on April 11, after which it is probable that some further announcement will be made.

All other mining companies in the district have announced that they will continue development work as at present. Practically no copper has been produced by the smaller companies in the last six months anyway.

At the Higgins mine development is being continued with a force of 20 men. Some important ore bodies have been opened recently in the Higgins and the mine will be in a condition to produce on a large scale when the copper situation clears up.

The leasing companies in the Don Luis section, the Boras and the Night Hawk are carrying on their usual program of development work. Ore bodies that have attracted much attention in the Boras and Night Hawk mines before the copper market made production unprofitable are being further developed and show every indication of coming up to first expectations. The Wolverine company recently increased its working force and is now working two shifts on development. Nothing has been done on the property of the Arizona Bisbee Copper company for several months.

The Shattuck and Denn properties that closed down in the latter part of November, are retaining a comparatively large force in extensive development work. About 40 men are being employed.

As was announced several days ago by G. H. Dowell, general manager, the Copper Queen will employ a large force in extensive development work after the production of copper has ceased. Dowell said that about 1000 men will be retained in the employ of the company.

MYSTERY BLAZE
IN BENSON STORE

The Mortinez general merchandise store at Benson Monday was virtually destroyed by fire believed of incendiary origin, according to information reaching here. No estimate has been made of the loss. Bensonites were aroused from their slumbers by the sonorous blasts of a locomotive whistle.

Rushing wildly from their homes with the belief that Benson was a mass of flames, the Mortinez store was discovered completely engulfed in a swirl of smoke and flying embers. Mortinez narrowly escaped with his life. Willing hands joined in fighting the blaze which, according to reports, endangered the whole city. The high wind which prevailed Sunday and Monday aided the fire fighters in getting the blaze under control, the report said. This is the second disastrous fire of which Benson has been the scene.

GALLUP CITIZENS TO
REPAIR ARIZONA ROAD

Word has been received from the Gallup, New Mexico, chamber of commerce that while it has been disappointed at the failure to secure an appropriation for the Holbrook-Lupton road at the present time, it does not intend to abandon the effort to secure this road construction.

Information from New Mexico is that the people of Gallup are figuring on turning out en masse a week from Sunday and reaping the worst spots on 20 miles of road in Arizona. It also is stated that they will maintain men and teams on the road until they can put it in shape for traffic this coming summer.

Needless to say, it is not believed that any injunction will be secured in the Arizona courts to prohibit the people of New Mexico from doing this road work in Arizona. Nor is the St. Johns vicinity, which is said to be opposed to this competing road, expected to call for the national guard to repel the "foreign invasion."

The consummation of this "overt act" is not without the possibility of reprisal, however. Greenlee county has an excellent road to the New Mexico line in the direction of Lordsburg which connects with a long, long trail winding. It is believed that if worst comes to worst, the people of Clifton, Duncan and Franklin will turn out and repair the Lordsburg road in New Mexico.—Phoenix Republican.

AUDITORS FIND
SHORTAGE OF
\$35,000 IN
COCHISE FUND

A controversy as to who had charge of the auditing of the books of the treasurer's office was up before the board of supervisors of Cochise County, who were in regular monthly session, which occupied most of the afternoon Monday.

The controversy arose over who has authority over the audit, and following spirited discussion in which the supervisors, H. T. Cuthbert, of Cuthbert and Company, W. G. Brown, deputy state examiner, J. N. Gaines, secretary of the Cochise County Taxpayers' Association, and J. F. Ross, county attorney, participated, the board decided to defer action on the matter pending receipt of word from State Examiner H. O. Morrison, under whose charge the board and county attorney claim the audit is being made, while H. T. Cuthbert claims he was empowered to finish the audit as shown on the minutes of the board, leaving Mr. Brown in charge and is now here to supervise the making out of the report.

Hot discussions and accusations flew thick and fast for a time during the discussion until the board took final action.

Mr. Cuthbert, making a statement, publicly said that the defalcation in the treasurer's office will amount to over \$30,000 as will be shown on the report to be submitted to the board.

It is expected the state examiner who is in Nogales, will go to Tombstone and the matter will be definitely settled, and according to facts brought out at the hearing, the report of the auditors will be forthcoming within a few days.

VERDE COPPER NEWS GOES
FROM DAILY TO SEMI-WEEKLY

Jerome, April 6.—The Verde Copper News, Jerome's afternoon daily suspended publication Tuesday, according to an announcement made by Ernest Douglas and H. J. Minhinick, manager and editor of the paper, respectively.

"Business in Jerome has simply reached the point where the publication of a daily newspaper in the community is no longer justifiable," said Mr. Douglas.

"Just as soon as the copper market picks up, however, we shall again publish the Verde Copper News six days a week. Meanwhile we plan to issue a semi-weekly edition, on Tuesday and Fridays, and into the semi-weekly we shall put our very best efforts. Although appearing but twice a week, it will cover the news of the community systematically and thoroughly and will continue as usual its fight or the upbuilding and progress of Jerome.

"A complete shut-down of mining operations in the Jerome district," he added, "while not yet officially announced, is expected from day to day. In view of this fact there is only one thing for the community to do, and that is to retrench and prepare to see itself through the period of business depression with as little loss as possible."

MIAMI SMELTER TO SUSPEND
APRIL 20; ONE MINE WORKING

GLOBE, April 6.—With the announcement of Superintendent L. O. Howard of the International Smelting company that operations at the smelter would be entirely suspended by April 20, indications are that the copper mining and smelting industries in the Globe-Miami district will practically have ceased by that date, as the Miami Copper company is the only large producer in the district that is still operating. So far officials of this company have given no intimation that they contemplate suspending active work.

It is possible, say mining authorities in the district that the Miami Copper company will not necessarily be forced to shut down because of the suspension of operation on the part of the International Smelting company. This theory is advanced by the belief that they may continue to produce ore and store the concentrates until the smelter reopens. If this policy were pursued it would afford great relief to the district by giving needy men work. A wage cut of 90 cents a day went into effect on April 1 at the smelting plant. It is reported this reduction is to maintain indefinitely.

BREAD SELLING AT FIVE CENTS PER LOAF IN ST. LOUIS
ST. LOUIS, April 6.—Bread at 5c loaf retail was placed on sale here for the first time since December, 1916, when the minimum price was advanced from five to six cents.